

TOWN OF PARADISE VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Press Release

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Drowning: Leading Cause of Accidental Death for Children

Town of Paradise Valley, Arizona March 29 2021 –In 2020, the Town of Paradise Valley collaborated with community partners and became a member of the Drowning Prevention Coalition of Arizona.

Council Member Ellen Andeen who serves as the Chair to the Advisory Committee Public Safety said, “Partnerships like these help us leverage one another’s strengths to build a community.” She explained that drowning among children still needs more awareness and advocacy to be prevented.

In Maricopa County during 2020 there were at least 75 water related incidents involving children 5 years of age and younger resulting in 14 fatalities according to the Children’s Safety Zone which sources data within the State of Arizona. However, this drowning trend hits home across the United States.

On average, 379 fatalities related to pool/spa submersions involving children younger than 15 of age were reported annually from 2015 through 2017 to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.



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In stance with the mission of the National Drowning Prevention Alliance who will be hosting their 20<sup>th</sup> Water Safety Conference during the week of March 29 - April 1, officials want residents to know, “United, we can prevent the tragedy of drowning.” Provided below are resources and tips.

| Why Is This Important?   | A Few Simple but Effective Prevention Steps We Can All Take   |
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| <p><b>Drowning Facts:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drowning is the leading cause of accidental death for children 1–4 years old.</li> <li>• 3,500 persons will likely die as a result of drowning in this year in the U.S.</li> <li>• 88% of child drownings occur with a least one adult present.</li> </ul> <p><b>For more info, visit the CDC:</b><br/> <a href="#">Unintentional Drowning: Get the Facts website.</a></p> <p><b>National Drowning Prevention Alliance:</b><br/> <a href="https://www.preventdrownings.org/">https://www.preventdrownings.org/</a></p> <p><b>Drowning Prevention Coalition of Arizona:</b><br/> <a href="https://www.preventdrownings.org/">https://www.preventdrownings.org/</a></p> | <p><b>Keep swimmers safe in the water</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make sure everyone has basic swim skills and water safety awareness.</li> <li>• Use U.S. Coast Guard–approved life jackets as directed.</li> <li>• Provide continuous, attentive supervision close to swimmers.</li> <li>• Know how to recognize and respond to a swimmer in distress and how to perform CPR.</li> </ul> <p><b>Prevent access to water when pool is not in use</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install and maintain barriers, like 4-sided fencing.</li> <li>• Use locks/alarms for windows and doors.</li> </ul> |

The ABC’s of Water Safety is an easy way to remember and share these important safety tips:

**A - Adult Supervision**

**B - Barrier**

**C - Classes & Coast Guard Approved Lifejackets**

Find more safety tips by searching social media for #NotOneMoreDrowning & #BeH2OAware

For the latest information, follow us the Paradise Valley Police Department:

[www.ParadiseValleyPD.com](http://www.ParadiseValleyPD.com)